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County tax increase 1.67 per cent

CHAD INGRAM
 Staff Reporter

Haliburton County residents can expect a 1.67 per cent increase on the upper tier portion of their tax bills for 2020.

County councillors passed the budget during a Jan. 22 meeting.

While a draft budget presented to council in the fall had included a projected tax increase of 3.97 per cent, as treasurer Elaine Taylor told councillors last week, a larger-than-expected increase in property assessments in the county allowed her to drop the tax rate. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the tax rate by a property's assessed value through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. While the first draft of the budget included an assessment increase of one per cent, when the assessment roll was delivered, it turned out assessments in the county had actually grown by 3.34 per cent, thus allowing the tax rate increase to be dropped to 1.67 per cent. Approximately one per cent of that assessment growth came from new construction, and combined property assessment in the county totals nearly \$9 billion.

For residential properties, the tax increase translates to an additional \$3.52 for every \$100,000 of assessment. So the owner of a home assessed at \$300,000 would pay an additional \$10.46 at the upper tier for the year. For commercial properties the increase will amount to \$5.61 for every \$100,000 of assessment,

see ASSESSMENTS page 2



Kicks and kilts

Dancer Lacey MacDonald, who has grandparents living in the Highlands, performs with Andrew Mansfield playing the bagpipes at the annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. Presented by the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band, the event included performances by the band, dancing performances by the Mansfield Highland Dancers, scotch tasting, dancing and featured Scottish dish haggis during dinner. See more photos on page 18. /DARREN LUM Staff

Speed, alcohol top factors in snowmobile fatalities

JENN WATT
 Editor

Nearly half of snowmobile fatalities in Ontario in the last 10 years occurred on frozen lakes or rivers; 45 per cent involved alcohol or drugs; and 34 per cent were in Central Region, which includes the Haliburton Highlands.

Last week, the Ontario Provincial Police released their 10-year trend analysis of deaths due to motorized snow vehicle collisions and police are hoping that the results change behaviour patterns and save lives.

"Unfortunately, it's a very grim statistic because you're talking about 175 deaths [in 10 years] as a result of snowmobiling, which is a recreational activity or a sport," said Sgt. Paul Potter, co-ordinator of specialized patrol.

Excessive speed and driving too fast for the conditions were two of the top factors in snowmobile deaths, police say, along with alcohol impairment and losing control of the vehicle.

Potter said that if speed were taken out of the equation, "we wouldn't have nearly the amount of fatalities that we're currently dealing with."

Circumstances related to those who died while travelling on frozen lakes or rivers include "intentionally driving onto open water (puddle jumping/water skip-

see DRIVER page 3

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Teachers take their demands to the picket line

JENN WATT

Editor

Members of the elementary and secondary teachers' unions were on the picket lines last Tuesday as the rotating one-day strikes hit Haliburton County simultaneously, affecting all schools at once.

The strikes were part of ongoing job action by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, which are both in the midst of negotiations with the provincial government.

ETFO's issues include maintaining the kindergarten program, smaller class sizes, resources for students with special needs and teacher compensation. OSSTF's issues include mandatory e-learning, class sizes, and teacher compensation.

Aside from the rotating one-day strikes, both unions are conducting other job action, scaling back what their members do in the workplace.

On Jan. 21, Trillium Lakelands District School Board sent a letter to parents letting them know how those job actions would affect students.

Elementary students would not be receiving report cards, field trips were cancelled and extra-curriculars would continue if they took place during the school day.

Secondary students would be receiving report cards, but without comments. Extra-curriculars may be cancelled if teachers are absent because the school board may not have enough supply teachers to cover teacher absences, the board said.

"The school board regularly posts for occasional teacher supply recruitment," TLDSB communications manager Catherine Shedden said. "Yet despite even a recent recruitment, the board does not have enough coverage for both classroom and extra-curricular activities when teachers are absent. Supply teacher coverage for classes has priority over coverage for extra-curricular activities."

As part of job action, OSSTF members are not covering for each other during absences.

Local MPP Laurie Scott released a statement on Jan. 21 saying parent frustration at the strikes was understand-



Last week, OSSTF members were joined by ETFO members, belonging to schools from all over Haliburton County walking the picketline during the one-day strike on Tuesday, Jan. 21 in front of the train on County Road 21, steps from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. During their lunch hour CUPE members came out and walked with flags, showing their support. There were close to 100 people, who marched between 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m., which included high school teachers and elementary Early Childhood Educators and teachers, and teachers from Cardiff Elementary School and Wilberforce Elementary School./DARREN LUM Staff

able, calling it "unacceptable that union leaders would ramp up strike action and make families across the province scramble for childcare."

The PC government provided compensation to families for each day their kids could not go to school due to the strike. Scott's statement referenced an "immense

uptake" in the compensation and said it "speaks volumes to the level of uncertainty union-led strike action causes."

ETFO previously criticized the childcare compensation, saying the government was bribing parents with their own money.

Assessments up, tax rate down

from page 1

and for industrial properties, and increase of \$6.04 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

The 2020 county budget contains more some \$28.7 million in spending, with the tax levy constituting just more than \$19 million. The remaining money comes from sources such as provincial and federal funding and debentures.

The largest chunk of spending from the tax levy comes in the form of transportation, which includes the roads department, at 47 per cent. Health, which includes the county's EMS department, constitutes 17 per cent of spending; general government 12 per cent; social services and housing 10 per cent; planning and development eight per cent; recreation and cultural services, which is essentially the Haliburton County Public Library, five per cent; and protection to persons and property one per cent.

The budget includes a one per cent cost-of-living increase for Haliburton County staff, which equates to a \$96,000 increase in wages for the year. Wages and benefits comprise 34 per cent of spending in the budget.

There will be an overall contribution to reserves of more than \$70,000 for the year, bringing the county's total reserves to approximately \$3.95 million. The county achieved its reserve goal of \$4 million in 2018, and reserves are expected to stay around that level for 2020. Taylor also told councillors she intends to work on a formal reserves policy, as the county is currently without one.

The county will take out a new \$3-million loan to help with roads work, but with another loan reaching the end of its payment period, the county's annual debt repayment will actually drop by more than \$320,000. CAO Mike Rutter told councillors the most recent loan will essentially bring the county to a point a sustainability with its service delivery.

When councillors decided in the spring of 2019 they would not proceed with a rural transportation project at the time, they agreed they would revisit the subject during 2020 budget deliberations. There had been \$50,000 budgeted for the project in 2019, which was left in reserve, and another \$50,000 will be contributed for 2020.

"I think there was some expensed from the \$50,000 council allocated," Rutter said, explaining that reserve now sits at just below \$43,000. "This \$50,000 will be transferred to reserves at the end of this year."

As Rutter explained, while some provincial gas tax money is earmarked for municipal transportation projects, it's only available retroactively, leaving start-up expenses for any project with the municipality for the first year. A transportation implementation plan the county had commissioned in 2018 indicated that start-up costs for a transportation system for the county could be up to \$300,000 for the first year, depending upon the model.

"Should council choose to get into the business, you are building up a reserve of almost \$100,000," Rutter said, explaining it was staff's intention to continue allotting \$50,000 per year for the purpose.

"There always comes a time in a budget process wherein . . . something gets finished up or completed," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. "and that amount of money that was put on the levy a number of years ago still remains."

Moffatt wondered if there might come a time in the near future where the completion of such a project would happen at the county level that a sufficient amount of money within the tax levy might be freed up to direct to a rural transportation project.

"That's all," Moffatt said. "More of an observation."

"The realism of the thing is that we pretty well know that, in 2020, we're not going to be able to move forward on much," said Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall. "... Do we continue to add money to this particular project with the idea or expectation that some day, maybe we'll get something?"

"The short answer to that question is it's totally up to council," Rutter replied. "From my perspective, what we've been trying to get you in a position where first-year costs are dealt with . . . So that ultimately, council can say, we're ready to pull the trigger, we're ready to go."

Tax bills for county residents consist of a county portion, lower-tier portion with those tax rates established by each of the respective lower-tier councils, and a school board portion, the latter of which has been trending downward in recent years. Of 13 counties in eastern Ontario, for 2019 Haliburton County had the second-lowest property tax rate, after the County of Frontenac.

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We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory**. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

From all of Highlands East Station 2 Firefighters

We would like to sincerely thank the following businesses that supported our benefit breakfast on Saturday, January 18th, 2020.

Bancroft Foodland
Soloways Hotdog Factory Outlet
Sucies Sugar Bush
Tim Hortons Bancroft
Tony and Jill's No Frills Bancroft
Wilberforce Foodland
Zehrs

We would also like to thank the firefighters from the neighboring halls that came out to show their support. Most of all we would like to thank all the community members that volunteered their time, donated money, or just came out to enjoy the breakfast. The event would not have been such a success without you.

We are happy to announce that the community raised over \$2,200 for the Normondeau-Hennessey Family.

Driver behaviour needs to change, OPP say

from page 1

ping), breaking through the ice and collisions with other snowmobiles and natural landmarks," media materials from the OPP state.

Potter said the OPP has three SAVE teams, which stands for snow-vehicle, all-terrain vehicle and vessel enforcement, in addition to the local detachment's enforcement program. Police talk to operators about risky behaviour, laws and regulations they may not be aware of, and reach out to local snowmobile clubs.

"The more we can do to make this sport safer, the better it is for everybody," Potter said.

Police are a welcome presence on local trails, said John Enright, a director of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association. He said that in his experience, people who get into accidents are frequently driving at speeds too fast for the conditions.

"What people have to understand is all our trails have speed limits. They are all posted. The maximum speed on any HCSA trail is 50 km/hr," he said.

HSCA maintains 378 kilometres of trails and 70 kilometres of water crossings, which are staked and marked at 100-metre intervals.

"Where people get into trouble is where they go off the trail, don't follow a marked route on a lake, [or] travel roads that are not part of the trail system," he said.

Trail conditions and locations can be found at hcsa.ca.

In Haliburton County, fire departments are often called if a snowmobile has been in a serious collision. Dysart et al Fire Department fire chief Mike Iles said the number of collisions varies per year. In 2015, for example, the department responded to seven snowmobile accidents, in 2019 they responded to one.

Most of the snowmobile collisions his department responds to are on trails or on frozen lakes.

In the rare occurrence of water rescues, each fire department in the county is a little different in its response, which depends on available training, equipment and the rules that have been decided upon by municipal councils.

The Dysart et al department has a rescue boat, floater suits and ropes available for rescues as well as a snowmobile and a "snowbulance," which carries a patient and paramedic.

Iles said reducing accidents comes down to snowmobilers knowing their surroundings, knowing their snowmobile and what it can do, and knowing

the lakes. "Typically, it's speed and from what I've seen ... lack of familiarity [with surroundings]," he said.

In Highlands East, acting fire chief Chris Baughman said his department responds to about three to four snowmobile collisions a year.

"We do have some that are on the trails. That might entail a breakdown where the person has gotten too cold, or an accident," he said. The department has a snowmobile and ATV with tracks and rescue wagons when they need to go out to get someone down a trail.

In his experience, he said obeying the speed limit and not drinking and driving would be the two factors most important in reducing the number of accidents.

Potter said he wants to see the number of fatalities in the province decrease.

"Driver behaviour: it needs to be changed and it can be changed," he said. "We're not identifying issues with the trails. We're not identifying issues with the equipment or the snowmobiles themselves. It's the driver's behaviour. That's what's causing this."



The firefighters of Station 2 in Highlands East served up a mighty breakfast fundraiser for Normandeau-Hennessey family, Braedon, Justice, Ray, Ryan and Bobbiejoe. /KRISTENA SCHUTT-MOORE Special to the Echo

A firefighter's breakfast for a local family

KRISTENA SCHUTT-MOORE

Special to the Echo

The firefighters from Highlands East's Station 2 took over the Highlands Grove Community Centre on Saturday, Jan. 18, but they weren't there for training or to fight a fire.

The volunteer firefighters and their families were cooking up breakfasts in the hall's kitchen, raising more than \$2,000 for the Normandeau-Hennessey family who lost their house to an electrical fire on Dec. 9 on Cooney Road in Highland Grove.

After the fire Station 2 volunteers met for their regular Friday night meeting, they decided to pitch in together and help out the family. A GoFundMe webpage, www.gofundme.com/f/hys9ad-please-help-house-fire-victims, was already set up and the volunteers pooled some of their fundraising money, some even donated their pay slips from the night of the fire, and came up with \$500 for the page. They then thought they could do one better.

Other fire stations throughout Highlands East and the volunteers' families pitched in and together they put on a large breakfast on Jan. 18 including bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes with local maple syrup, toast and coffee, tea and juice.

The Normandeau-Hennessey family – Ryan, Bobbiejoe, Braedon and Justice – were also at the breakfast and they

expressed their thanks to everyone who came and helped out. "It's amazing how the whole community comes together when a catastrophe like this happens," says Ryan. "You just never think it will happen to you."

The family says that they aren't even close to ready to rebuild the house yet. Currently they are living with Ryan's parents, except for Braedon, who is living with his father. Their pets are also scattered throughout the area living with friends and family for now.

Justice explained, "It's difficult. I now have to go to Centre Hastings Secondary School because of where we are living so I have to leave all my friends." Braedon was able to remain in North Hastings High School because he was living with his dad within the school's catchment area.

Both the family and the firefighters want to thank the volunteers and community businesses that helped support the breakfast and made it possible, including Wilberforce Foodland, No Frills Bancroft, Zehr's Bancroft, Tim Hortons Bancroft, Soloways Hotdog Factory and Sucie Sugar Bush.

Thanks to the community support, the GoFundMe page had reached \$1,800 of the \$7,000 goal at the time of printing. Those interested in contacting the Normandeau-Hennessey family are welcome to reach Bobbiejoe on her Facebook page or email them at Bobbiejoenormandeauhennessey@hotmail.com.

Participation

Skaters take a turn during adult public skating on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Cost was \$2 and was held from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. See www.dysartetal.ca/events/ for more information about public skating. /DARREN LUM Staff





Lemon Bucket Orkestra, described as a "Balkan-klezmer-gypsy-party-punk-super-band," adding a twist to traditional Eastern European folk music, will be performing in Haliburton on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Haliburton Legion. /Photo by Carlos Martinez Garate

Lemon Bucket Orkestra to bring folk–punk dance party to Haliburton

JENN WATT

Editor

For the last 10 years, the members of Lemon Bucket Orkestra have travelled the world, bringing their high-energy Eastern European folk-punk dance party to venues big and small - and on Saturday, Feb. 8, they'll add the Haliburton Legion to that list.

Lemon Bucket Orkestra is a Toronto-based group with roots in busking and the tradition of Eastern European folk music, melding the sounds of Russia, Romania, Hungary, Greece and Turkey, among others.

"In these kinds of regions you either have music that is based on a horn and drum band or you have music that is played by a string band ... we kind of do both of those, which is something that allows us to explore a wider range of music as well as it allows for something dynamic in the shows," says band member Jaash Singh, who plays the darbouka, a goblet drum.

Descriptions of Lemon Bucket Orkestra's shows include words like "energetic" and "joyous" and video clips online show the 12-member group physically engaged with the music, dancing just as hard as the audi-

ence.

After a decade with the band, Singh says he's had the chance to meet people internationally and learn about their music and culture.

"It's been an amazing journey. We've toured the world, we've [had] lots of beautiful and unexpected experiences coming our way, stuff that's unique that we feel that just because of the uniqueness of our position and the music that we play and the context in which we play it, we're privy to a lot of very special experiences," he says.

One of those experiences came when the band was delayed on a flight on the way to Romania and decided to bring out the instruments and perform an impromptu set for their fellow passengers. Someone shot a video and posted it online.

"By the time we landed in Romania, we see that this video's gone viral," Singh says, adding that late night TV host Jimmy Kimmel talked about it in his opening monologue.

Lemon Bucket Orkestra's visit to Haliburton is being organized by Dance Happens Here Haliburton, or DH3. A few hours before the concert, a dance workshop will be offered for free for those interested in learning some basics.

"These dances are made so that grandparents can dance with children and everyone in between," Singh says.

Maryssa Danilko is a member of DH3 and says that the performance will be for all ages and the Legion will include seating for those who would like to sit to watch, but she notes it is a high-energy night that will feature lots of dancing.

Singh says sometimes there is hesitancy among audience members to dance as part of a larger group, but it's so much fun that most people have no problem joining in.

"It's rare these days for people in the modern society context ... to hold hands with a total stranger and dance with them in a circle, it's not really something that happens a lot," he says. "So people really enjoy it. They're kind of taken aback at first, but then they just get right into it and it's a really lovely moment."

Lemon Bucket Orkestra is playing the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, \$20 for students. You can buy tickets at The Source in Haliburton or online at <https://bpt.me/4450056>. Call 705-935-1870 for more information. The free dance workshop will be at the Legion at 6 p.m. on the same day.

MINDEN SUBARU

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Roberts deputy warden for 2020

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 22 meeting of Haliburton County council.

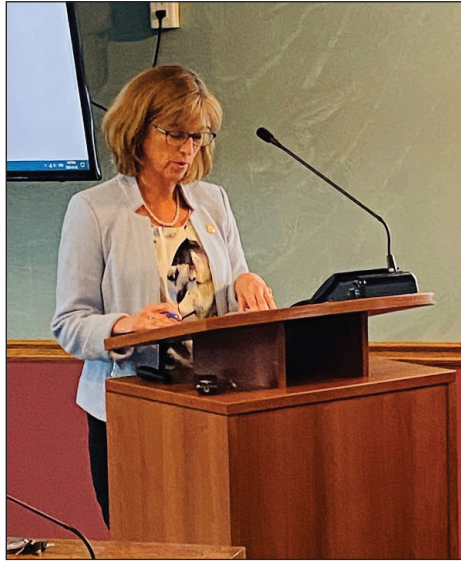
Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts was chosen by her colleagues as deputy warden of Haliburton County for 2020.

While such positions are not often contested within county council, in a somewhat novel process for councillors, they voted by secret ballot for either Roberts or Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton, both of whom had expressed interest in holding the position for the year. The role, created by county council in 2017, was designed to assist the warden, who is the head of county council. Councillors agreed that in recent years the warden position has evolved to entail more work, including provincial-level advocacy activities through organizations such as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. The deputy warden assists the warden in her or his duties, acting as a replacement when necessary.

Burton was deputy warden for 2019, to Warden Liz Danielsen, who was acclaimed again by colleagues as warden for 2020.

Pushing back against SOLS cost increase

The County of Haliburton will write to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the Minister of Transportation, requesting that the province reconsider or phase-in a large price-hike for its Tourism-Oriented Destination Signage program. TODS signs are the blue ones



Andrea Roberts, mayor of Dysart et al, will be deputy warden of the County of Haliburton for 2020. She was elected to the position by her fellow county councillors during a meeting on Jan. 22. This year's warden is Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen. County council elects its warden and deputy warden each year. / Photo courtesy of the County of Haliburton

spotted along provincial roadways directing motorists to tourism-themed businesses or municipal attractions. The price increase is more than double, with signs that previously cost \$300 per year costing \$800 per year beginning in 2020.

A survey conducted by the county's tourism department to which 40 businesses or municipal entities responded indicated that while nearly 60 per cent of them had participated in the TODS program in 2019, fewer than 45 per cent said they intended to participate in the pro-

gram in 2020, and more than 40 per cent of those who indicated they wouldn't be participating indicated the reason was the increase in price.

The county's submission mentions specifically the hardship the change will bring to local businesses.

Grant funding for governance review

The county has applied for and received modernization funding from the province in the form of a \$150,000 grant that will be pay for the service delivery and governance review the county is undertaking.

The study will look at the delivery of services, in particular, which tier is best suited to deliver which service, opportunities for consolidation of services, etc., and may also lead to recommendations to change the local governance structure itself, such as the possibility of an amalgamated, single-tier government. The county has released the request for proposals for the project and a short list of candidates is to make presentations to county council on Feb. 12, and county councillors are to select a consultant on Feb. 26. The project is to be concluded by June 12, under the guidelines of the provincial funding.



Safety first

Snowmobilers stop for traffic before crossing County Road 21 on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at Sam Slick Park in Haliburton. As of Monday, Jan. 27, the OFSC said there were 15, 842 km of available trails. See www.ofsc.on.ca for the latest news and learn about trail status through their trail guides. /DARREN LUM Staff

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Snowmobiling safety

WE WATCHED THE news last week as rescue workers spent days searching for the bodies of six snowmobilers who went through the ice in Quebec's Lac-Saint-Jean region. The group was made up of French tourists unfamiliar with the area led by a guide. It hasn't been determined what triggered their decision to leave the marked trail they were travelling on.

The accident happened the day before the Ontario Provincial Police put out a 10-year trend analysis of fatalities in snowmobiling as part of their annual safety week.

As Sgt. Paul Potter put it, the results are grim. Over the last decade, 175 people died in Ontario as a result of participating in the sport of snowmobiling. In almost half of fatalities, alcohol or drugs was a factor; in almost half of fatalities the accident occurred on a frozen lake or river.

Speed was the leading factor in deaths.

It's important to note that 175 is the fatality figure; the OPP did not release numbers for snowmobile accidents, but one could safely assume that speed and alcohol consumption would also lead to non-fatal collisions.

Snowmobiling is popular in Ontario and in Haliburton. More than 100,000 trail permits were

issued last year in the province and a study done in 2019 found that District 6, the area covering Haliburton to Pembroke, was the most visited region in Ontario by snowmobilers in the 2018-2019 season.

It's common to see snowmobiles filling the parking lots around the Haliburton Highlands as sledders stop for gas and a bite to eat on their tour through the winter wonderland of Central Ontario.

And since there's more traffic, it follows that accidents would happen more frequently. Police have found that 32 per cent of fatalities in their analysis happened in Central Region, a large area that includes Haliburton County.

What can be done to promote safety?

John Enright of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association says the first thing to do is stay on the 370 kilometres of trails and 70 kilometres of water crossings that volunteers work so hard to mark and sign - and follow the 50 km/hr speed limit, which was set for a reason.

Plan ahead, as Haliburton fire chief Mike Iles suggests: know the surroundings, know the snowmobile and its capabilities and know the lakes you're travelling on.

And it should go without saying, but perhaps the fatality statistics make it more plain: don't drink and drive.



jenn
watt

Editorial



Blue Jay launch

by Darren Lum

From a Kolomeyka to Lemon Bucket Orkestra

SOMETIMES IN life you do things just so you can be around certain people. Perhaps they inspire you, or are fun, or have great energy and you just enjoy their company. That is exactly the reason that I work on the DH3 (Dance Happens Here, Haliburton) committee.

Jim Blake, Amy Brohm, Barb Fraser and Maryssa Danilko are wonderful people to spend time with, dreaming up creative events that we want to bring to our county. Maryssa is the newest and youngest member of our committee and she is a force of good energy. I just love her.

She was born in Toronto, went to school there and graduated with a degree in environmental studies and a masters in education. She is Ukrainian and grew up surrounded by music and dance and low and behold was performing in Toronto one evening, with her dance troupe "Desna," when she met a logger from Haliburton and fell in love. Maryssa gave up her city life and moved to Haliburton County where she and her husband, Alex Danilko, now live and are raising their three young children.

Maryssa loves her life here and now cuts and splits wood for a living. She has never forgotten her love of music and dance though. So in her very little free time (three young kids!) she volunteers on our DH3 committee to bring events to our county. Maryssa helped to bring the Ukrainian dancers to Haliburton a couple of years ago to perform in the Nutcracker, and she was the inspiration behind the Kolomeyka event that our committee

ran and loved.

Now Maryssa is the driving force behind our committee bringing the Lemon Bucket Orkestra (LBO) to the Haliburton Legion on Saturday Feb 8. LBO is a "guerilla-punk-balkan-folk-brass band massive" like no other. They travel around the world performing and because of Mar-

yssa we will get to see them in Haliburton. Maryssa knows the group from her days of being very involved in the music and dance scene in Toronto. She loves the joy, the enthusiasm and the energy of this group.

There will be 13 people performing and their intention is to have fun and create an event where people feel happy, welcome and joyful! They play Eastern European music with

their own punk, jazz, gypsy twist. How cool is that?! You are welcome to come and listen or dance if you feel so inclined. There will be a free dance workshop with one of the band members, Stephanie Woloshyn, that will help you get ready for the show. It will happen at 6 p.m. on the evening of the show. What I love about this story is that it reminds me that anything is possible in our county. Someone comes up with a good idea, gets some help and voila: a fun time is had by all who attend. Everyone who comes to this event will leave feeling very, very good. I hope to see you there!

Tickets are available at The Source, Haliburton or online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4450056>.

Tales from
the great



lynda
shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Work of the Barkening Unit

ON LATE SATURDAY night, I received the email I had been waiting for from the owner of the kennel I have been dealing with. The subject line read "Puppies" and the content informed me that, barring any unforeseen circumstances, my English Springer Spaniel would be born in early March.

"Jenn," I announced excitedly. "Good news. We can expect our little miracle in early March!"

Jenn was not very happy about this – possibly because it was 1:30 in the morning – but more likely because she took it to mean that she would have to wait till early March before I put my dirty laundry in the hamper. But when I clarified that this time "little miracle" meant the birth of our new puppy, she was much less perturbed by the time she fell back asleep.

As for myself, sleep was out of the question for the next little while. For a new dog brings an unspoken pressure to train it right. If you don't, your dog might not under-

stand that it's only OK to fetch slippers when no one is wearing them.

Honestly, I'm a little nervous because it has been more than 15 years since I trained a spaniel. That's why I have been brushing up on my training techniques by putting our 11-year-old Labrador retriever through the paces. During that time, I was reminded that you don't train an old dog so much as bribe it with copious amounts of food – and not the stale dog biscuits either. No they want the good stuff that you eat



steve
galea

Loon Tales

and they want it split right down the middle.

This is because old dogs are too smart to do your bidding merely to gain your love and approval. They know they already have that – along with first hand knowledge of several embarrassing incidents they're willing to keep to themselves, so long as you don't prevent them from using the new couch when your spouse is not home.

People characterize dogs as members of packs. I say it's more like unions, but only because they know how to negotiate what's good for them.

That's why seniority is another important difference between an old dog and a new pup.

An old dog like Millie (Tail Waggers Local 101) understands she has amassed so much seniority that she will never be fired or have to work weekends without being paid time and a half. She has also negotiated six weeks of paid vacation each year and three sick days a month, as well as a per diem food allowance, which she uses. This is the kind of sweet deal you don't want your new dog to know about.

So, one of the things I'll tell the new pup on the way home is that she has been hired for a contract position that will be renewed annually each hunting season and that, while she is not eligible for a unionized position, she will receive bonuses based on her performance and whether or not the shareholder is happy. I will also tell her it is forbidden to do the work of the bargaining unit which mainly consists of sleeping on the couch, attempted scooting, chasing the cats, barking when strangers come to the door and begging at the dinner table.

Instead, her job description will include retrieving, finding and flushing birds, sitting, staying and shutting the heck up when I miss.

I could have got Millie to do these things too, but she wanted a profit-sharing plan.



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past was taken in the 1940s and includes some familiar names. From left, Stan Cooper, Cecil Woodcock, Andy Sisson, Keith Sisson, Bruce Leek, Amelia Cooper, Elva Cooper, Eileen Leek and Shirley Sisson. Submitted by Eleanor Cooper

letters to the editor

For peat's sake (and for the rest of us)

To the Editor,

Paul Heaven's talk on preserving wetlands (reported in *The Echo*, Jan. 21) had a message for everyone who wants to help reduce the severity of spring flooding. Protecting provincially significant wetlands, like the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex in Minden Hills, is certainly important. But protecting the smaller wetlands is important too. Every wetland, large or small, acts like a sponge, reducing the rate at which water flows down the watershed. Every property owner who has low, wet areas on their property should think twice before filling them in.

Every wetland also filters contaminated water. Everyone whose property is part of a larger marsh, should consider whether that marsh is providing a public service by protecting a lake from contaminants. If it is, think twice about filling it in and destroying that function.

Wetland protection is a global concern. Feb. 2 is World Wetlands Day. This year the theme is "wetlands and biodiversity". For more information, go to <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/home>.

Carolynn Coburn
West Guilford

Teachers defending world-class education system

To the Editor,

My electricity bill has risen by a whopping 55 per cent as of Nov. 1, 2019. Premier Doug Ford made a big deal of accusing the former Liberal government of having their hand in our pockets and how he was going to lower our electricity bills. I remember Ford saying people were having to make a choice between buying food or paying their electric bill. Well I guess he thinks raising the electric bill by 55 per cent will make that choice easier. Another promise made and another promise broken.

On the education front, Doug Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce keep telling us those bad teachers and their onerous union leaders are only striking for more money. The teachers' unions are asking for a two per cent raise but Ford

passed a law saying they could only have one per cent. Let's be clear nobody goes on strike for one per cent. The teachers are striking to save a world-class education system from destructive cuts that if implemented, as Ford and Lecce would like, would gut the public education system of thousands of teachers and include removal of courses needed by students to qualify for college and university, not to mention basic life skills. I seem to recall Ford telling us all that nobody would lose their jobs because he will find efficiencies. Well here is a news flash. Teachers have lost their jobs and if Ford has his way thousands more will as well. Promises made, promises broken. Ford, For The People. LOL.

Stephen Woof
Haliburton

The true cost of outrageous cuts

To the Editor,

Enough is enough! I am furious that the Ford government is continuing to blame the members of the educational community for the current political strife. According to a document on BlogTO, published Oct. 10, 2019, the top 28 deputy ministers' earnings ranged from \$234,080, to a maximum of \$320,130. This salary has now been raised to \$326,560, with opportunities for bonuses, for performance related to "increased efficiencies."

According to a CBC news report Oct. 16, 2019, the Ford government voted themselves a 14 per cent raise retroactive to June 30, 2018. Note that the Ford government prorogued themselves in May 2019 and did not return to work for five months, the end of October 2019. The government was absent with pay – the longest break in provincial government in over 25 years.

Global News reported Nov. 8, 2019, on a one per cent cap on public sector wage increases for three years (a 13 per cent difference from the retroactive 14 per cent for

elected officials). This affects more than one million public sector workers, including employees of school boards, universities and colleges, hospitals, long-term care homes and other organizations. Further, the Ford government rolled back the minimum wage from \$15 to \$14 an hour until October 2020 and also cut two paid personal leave days.

An article in the *Toronto Star* on June 13, 2019 stated that in the year since they came to power, there had been a "sweeping array of funding cuts to Ontario services, programs, non-governmental organizations and projects, in an effort to eliminate an \$11.7 billion deficit." This included cuts to health care, environmental projects, legal aid, research and tourism. Such hypocrisy! Why not start with cutting the retroactive 14 per cent pay increase and set an example?

Three-thousand-four-hundred-fifty-five teaching positions are slated to be eliminated over the next four years – ostensibly to save \$857 million; \$131 million is scheduled to be cut from the education budget in the 2019-2020 school year alone. How much will the education minister receive in bonuses

for his performance related to "efficiencies" this year? Yet both the premier and the minister of education asserted that no teaching staff would be laid off – these cuts would be achieved through attrition. How does that statement relate to all the education workers who have already received pink slips?

In December 2018, the minister of education said that \$25 million would be cut from education programs in the elementary and secondary panels for the 2018-2019 school year. If the government had not been absent with pay for five months in 2019, in all likelihood the issues facing the educational community could and would have been resolved before school began again in September 2019.

This means any disruption to the excellent, person-to-person education which most of our students receive would have been avoided. No disruptions would have occurred. The wide spectrum of students with special educational needs continue to suffer from withdrawal of appropriate supports, due to the withdrawal of funding for these supports.

The disruption to parents' work schedules

and the ensuing issues of child care would never have happened. Resolving these issues by staying on the job during those five months would have eliminated the projected \$48 million-a-day costs for "alternate daycare" (an insult to parents and education workers alike). These monies (found from which "efficiency"?) should be being used to support and augment programs and staffing currently in place. Or, here's an idea: reinstate staff and programs which have already been eliminated.

No. The blame should be placed squarely where it belongs: on the Ford government, its self-serving mandate, its lack of foresight and understanding of the true cost of the outrageous cuts, its skewed policies and its blatant election lies, that there would be no cuts to education and no jobs lost.

By continuing to resist these draconian measures across the political landscape, teachers (not computers) continue to teach.

Cheryl Cohoon
Haliburton

The magic of snow, don'tcha know

Oh what a day! Snow is pelting down like a salt shaker out of control, don'tcha know. Why, ol' Maybelle feels like I'm in one of those snow thingies that you shake. Yep, that's me, sitting inside that tiny cottage smack dab in the middle of it while Mother Nature does her Wild Thing dance outside, compelling poets, musicians, writers and painters to wax poetic about it through song, prose, crayon to paper, and the flick of a horse hair brush.

Looking out through my living room window, as the blue-grey sky bleeds through an otherwise white snow sky, I'm wondering if I'm awake or sleeping snugly beneath the patchwork quilt my Granma Rose made for me when I was just a young thing. Oh my, I believe I actually was young, once, don'tcha know.

Oh, how we'd play. She wasn't like my Granma Hester, oh no. Granma Rose danced in the grass barefoot. Granma

Hester didn't dance, prance, or glance. Her eyes and her feet stayed straight forward, planted on the ground like potatoes. She wasn't the salt of the earth, she WAS the earth, and I loved her dearly... but the last thing I'd ever think of her as having or sharing with me or anybody else was FUN.

Why the very quilt that my darling Granma Rose gifted me with, she used one bright spring day as a prop she held above her head as she danced freely in the fields ... twirling like a dervish, not caring that my cousins Myrtle and Sam were peeking at her through the mulberry bushes, pointing and laughing like she was on fire crazy. But, me...why I grabbed a cloth right off the kitchen table and ran to the field, holding it above my head, joining her in a dance I am still convinced held a certain magic, and that for just a moment, we were lifted above the ground in a timeless bubble of spirit, unfettered by the real things that burst bubbles at every turn.

Funny, how that comes to mind right

Maybelle's



Fireside stories

How branch closures could affect communities

To the Editor,

I just read about the possibility of library closures in the County as recommended by KPMG. Notwithstanding the fact that not all branches might offer public use of computers/internet, I am wondering.

I wonder whether branch closures will affect e-learning of students who don't have a computer or access to internet at home.

I wonder whether branch closures will affect the availability of a community gathering spot.

I wonder whether branch closures will

affect the availability of a place where the community can gather/research information.

I wonder whether branch closures will affect the likelihood of a family being able to drive to the next town at which there is a library.

I wonder whether branch closures need to be the focus of County budget cuts instead of other areas for saving.

Just wondering.

George Denny
Benoir Lake

now as I watch the snow grow deep on the picnic table outside my window. Hundreds, thousands, millions of topless salt shakers spill from the sky.

There, I pinched myself. I am NOT dreaming and now my arm hurts from my self-inflicted test. But it's a sweet sting, because I'm still embracing the vision of my Granma Rose and how sparked she was with life. Granpa Mo was a biscuit from the same tin. A couple of individuals who didn't care to squeeze inside the acceptable constraints of normalcy.

The weather forecasters gave all of us in Lake WhaddayathinkI mean a heads-up about this rascal snowfall. But, what it's doing for me right now is wrapping me in gratefulness. Yes, as it's snowing like a scene in a Dickens' novel, ol' May-

belle's got a roof above my head, heat in my house, food on my table, a pet bear who loves me and dear friends who I know are safe and warm inside their homes tonight.

I hope you have memories that warm you tonight, dear reader.

Maybelle's *Fireside Stories* is written by Jerelyn Craden. Jerelyn's novel, "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon," is available at amazon.com

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If you did not find a Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass in your stocking this Christmas, there is still time to take advantage of our Christmas Season Pass Sale.

You won't want to miss this season's great line-up including The Sound of Music, The Importance of Being Ernest, Lucien, Every Brilliant Thing and Across the Pond. All five shows for only \$160... that is almost a 15% savings.

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www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca and follow the links to the secure order page.

do something
dramatic
this summer



Pond hockey continues this weekend

A Reg's Tiger Dogs player, left, pokes the puck from an advancing Peterborough Shockers player in Pondimonium division action at the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships on Friday, Jan. 24 at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton. Hockey action continues this weekend with the masters' divisions, starting on Friday and ending Saturday, weather permitting. After the two weekends, there will have been hundreds of men and women, who competed in the annual championships, which were made possible by sponsors and an army of volunteers. /DARREN LUM Staff



A Peter North Stars player, left, shakes the hand of an ITC Pigeons player.



A Peter North Stars player, in orange, attempts to settle a bouncing puck in Pondimonium division action.



A volunteer clears snow from a rink at the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships.



A Peter North Stars player, left, battles with an ITC Pigeons player.

County council cost about \$135K for 2019

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County council cost approximately \$133,500 to operate for 2019.

The 2019 statements of remuneration and expenses for county council were received by councillors during a Jan. 22 meeting. County councillors receive per diem payments for each of the council and committee meetings they attend, and can also expense items such as meals and hotel accommodations while they are conducting business on behalf of the county. County council is comprised of the mayors and deputy mayors from each of Haliburton County's four lower-tier councils.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen served as county warden for the year, and collected just more than \$19,530 in council meetings per diems, \$5,475 in committee meeting per diems, \$1,805 in mileage, and charged about \$5,250 in meals, accommodations and conference expenses for a total of just more than \$32,000.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy had council meeting per diems of \$8,340; committee per diems of \$3,955; mileage payments of just more than \$1,200 and meal, accommodation and conference expenses of approximately \$1,750 for a total of just more than \$15,255.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton who served as deputy warden for 2019 had council meeting per diems of just more than \$9,700; committee per diems of \$3,285; mileage of \$1,467 and meal, accommodation and conference expenses of \$230, for total of approximately \$14,750.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts received \$8,340 in council per diems,

\$3,995 in committee per diems, just over \$1,000 in mileage payments and had other expenses totalling about \$1,300 for a total of just more than \$14,600.

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall collected \$8,340 in council per diems; \$3,315 in committee per diems; just more than \$1,000 in mileage payments and charged about \$1,800 in other expenses for a total of just less than \$14,500. Minden Hills Deputy Mayor

Lisa Schell was paid \$8,340 in council per diems; \$4,305 in committee per diems; \$414 in mileage payments and had about \$1,400 in other expenses for a total of just more than \$14,400.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt received \$8,340 in council per diems; \$3,210 in committee per diems, \$850 in mileage and had other expenses of just less than \$2,000 for a total of just more than \$14,360. Minden Hills Mayor

Brent Devolin was paid \$8,340 in council per diems; \$3,475 in committee per diems; had mileage payments of just less than \$300 and additional expenses of just more than \$1,400 for a total of just more than \$13,500.

Members of county council are also remunerated at their respective lower-tier levels.

Big Bike needs big participation to keep rolling in Highlands

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The 30-person Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike may have been taken for its last ride in the Highlands last year, if not enough people pre-register in the next few weeks.

As reported by Canoe FM, the Heart and Stroke Foundation is asking for greater participation so expenses related to transportation of the Big Bike and overnight accommodation are covered.

For the event to continue, there needs to be two more groups of close to the seating capacity of the Big Bike in Haliburton and one to two in Minden.

Chairperson of the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group, Lois Rigney has been phoning around, looking to gain participation from organizations.

The Minden Hills resident appreciates the event for the fun of riding (she's ridden past seven years), help it provides and the money it raises, which funds important research so that, maybe, her children won't

have to suffer.

"Maybe my kids won't go through this," she said, referring to her adult son and daughter.

Rigney, a grandmother of three grandsons and one granddaughter, said every seven minutes a person dies of a stroke in Canada, referring to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada is a national, non-profit organization, which funds research, educates and advocates for efforts to combat heart disease and stroke. The organization has also been funding gender equitable research, acknowledging the differences with men and women's hearts and brains. Past research was based on studies on men, expecting to apply to women.

Big Bike participants must be at least 14 years old. Rigney said the deadline to acquire the necessary support is mid-February. In addition to the foundation funding important research, it also contributes to efforts to bring defibrillators to communities, and offer CPR and first aid programs for first responders.

Rigney knows first-hand how stroke

affects loved ones and caregivers.

Her husband and former Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney suffered from a stroke, which changed their lives. He later died from cancer. She wonders if there is any truth to a theory that cancer could be connected to stroke. Research being funded by the foundation could reveal that, she said.

"We ride the bike because of the research the Heart and Stroke Foundation is doing to further reduce death from heart and stroke disease," she said.

Rigney said her support group, which had 10 people out for their most recent meeting, includes people who had endured a stroke as well as their caregivers.

"We discuss caregiver burnout in the group. My goodness when I take them separately into another room and the tears flow. It's major league what people go through that have been affected," she said.

In the last two years, the support group has lost five people.

Call Rigney at (705) 286-1765 if you're interested in participating in Haliburton.

Minden Pharmasave's Sandra Heywood

see PUSH page 11



Pond Hockey Rocks the Pinestone

A chance for you to experience what it's like to party like a "Ponder"

Baz Littlerock Band (Jan 24)

A High-energy rock band that plays a wide variety of rock classics.

Neon Nostalgic (Jan 25)

A high energy rock show in the format of a LIVE BAND VIDEO DANCE PARTY. Featuring all your favourite songs synced to the actual original music videos.

Rude E Bones (Jan 31)

A high energy band playing an eclectic mix of tunes to rock the room including Queen, Journey, AC/DC, Zeppelin, Doobies, Bowie, Foo fighters, the Cult, Prince and much more!

Arden & the Tourists (Feb 1)

A pond Hockey and Haliburton favourite. This event sold out last year! Limited number of tickets are available.

Doors Open: 9pm

Pricing: \$15 ADVANCE. \$20 AT THE DOOR. Wrist band policy in place. Players and volunteers FREE. Visit the Canadian National Pond Hockey Facebook page for info on our discounted ticket offer.

Volunteers Wanted!

Join our team as we host teams from all over for two weekends of fun! Various indoor and outdoor positions available. Volunteers receive event swag, meals invitation to all Pond parties and volunteer recognition party.



4252 County Rd. #21, Haliburton, ON
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Push for participants

from page 10

invites the public to join her in enjoying the experience of riding the Big Bike.

"I don't think that anyone that rides in it doesn't have fun," she said.

Heywood said she's participated the past seven years and has been joined by members of the Rotary Club of Minden.

She knows the importance of heart research first hand, having a newborn grandson benefit.

Close to three years ago, her grandson Sebastian Havill was the focus of a groundbreaking medical procedure after being diagnosed with a rare heart disease, TGA, or a severe form of transposition of the great arteries. This means the two arteries that connect to the heart are switched and prevents a baby from receiving oxygen upon birth. His life was saved when he received the first ever balloon atrial septoplasty surgery performed in utero to treat his heart defect. Due to unique circumstances requiring surgery before he was born, the surgery was performed while still in his mother's uterus. It received a lot of media attention, headlining newspaper articles and television news media outlets throughout the province and the country. Once he was born further surgery was needed to correct the heart condition.

Although she rode the Big Bike before her grandson's experiences, she was further motivated, understanding how research can save lives.

Heywood said anyone interested in joining her can call her at work at Pharmasave (705)286-1220.



Haliburton's Susan Keith holds up her hands, reacting to seeing her toaster work after it was repaired by volunteer helper Markus Tuomi during the SIRCH Repair Cafe on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the event offered the public an opportunity to socialize, learn a skill, and find life in items thought to be trash. This event was made possible by SIRCH and partners, including funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. /DARREN LUM Staff

Hands up for the next SIRCH Repair Cafe

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The first SIRCH Repair Cafe in Haliburton County finished with a 54.2 per cent repair rate, including 33.3 per cent of items that can still be fixed said event organizer Chris Varga.

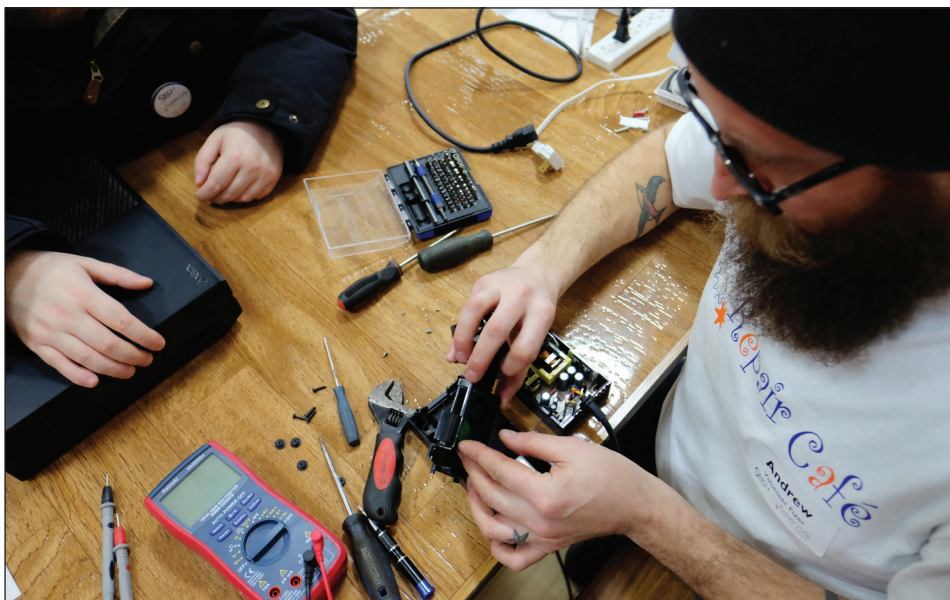
Out of 48 repairs attempted, there were

26 completed, 16 items needed parts and will be repaired later, one could not be tested and four could not be repaired. Varga said it was an amazing outcome because more than half of the items brought will not go to the landfill.

"And in the process, we shared knowledge, had fun and got to know our neighbours along the way," he said.

There will be more Repair Cafes com-

ing up such as on Saturday, March 7 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, on Saturday, May 2 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and then Saturday, June 13 at ASES. All events are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More dates are expected. See www.sirch.on.ca/repair-cafe/ for more information about what can and cannot be repaired.



Volunteer helper Andrew Cohrs examines an Xbox One video game console power cord belonging to new Haliburton resident Michael Bradamore during the SIRCH Repair Cafe.



MPP Laurie Scott and representative for Ontario Trillium Foundation, middle, came to cut the ceremonial ribbon alongside volunteers to officially start the SIRCH Repair Cafe on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton.

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Byers curls her way to Swiss Alps

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Jessica Byers is taking her curling skills from Oshawa to the land of chocolate and clocks.

Nearing the end of December, Byers and her U18 teammates Mahra Harris, skip, Emily Middaugh and Mackenzie Cryderman won the U21 Goldline TCA Youth Championships in Oshawa, earning an all-expense-paid trip to Switzerland where they will tour the area and compete against Swiss teams, representing Canada in March.

The team finished undefeated over three days from Dec. 27 to 29 at the Oshawa Curling Club, capping the championship with an 8-0 final decided by the opponents after six ends.

Byers, who is also a skip for the Red Hawks curling team, said she and her teammates were shocked about winning since the older rinks were expected to play well and be in the final.

"Once the game was over we all hugged each other and we were just in disbelief. We were so proud of ourselves because we worked really hard to get there," she said.

Getting to represent Canada in what Byers described as an exchange experience means a lot to the 17-year-old. The team is relatively new, formed in August, which added to the surprise for the teen and her teammates.

"I'm still processing it. I was in shock. All my players were crying after. All the parents were just so proud. It just feels great to know your trip is paid and you're



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Jessica Byers is looking forward to an all-expenses paid trip to Switzerland in March. Byers and her U18 competitive curling team earned the top prize by finishing first at the U21 Goldline TCA Youth Championships in Oshawa back in December. The week-long trip includes curling competition against Swiss teams and sight seeing. / DARREN LUM Staff

17 and going to Switzerland to represent your country with players you didn't think you'd play with last year," she said. "If you told me last year that I would have gone to Switzerland, I would say that's crazy."

Supporters had no shortage of excitement before the final.

"Leading up to the finals, like a lot of people were coming up to us, being, 'You're going to win. You're going to win.' And we were like, 'don't jinx it,'" she said. "We were just trying to not think about the prize because that is a lot on the line for a final. So we were trying to not think about it. Just treat it like a regular game. Just as if there was a money prize."

Byers remembers not missing a shot in the final. She said it was the team's best performance this season. They started

strongly, taking a 3-0 lead after the first end and didn't let up. The team did their best to hold back excitement and remain professional until it was over.

Byers and her teammates join elite company. This competition's past winners include Canadian Olympian and past world champion curler Rachel Homan.

Byers would love to see the Swiss Alps and check out the local architecture; her post-secondary interest is to become an architect or an interior designer.

Her team is scheduled to spend seven days in Switzerland, landing in Zurich on March 20.

Most of the week will be spent in St. Gallen, a city of approximately 500,000 people where they will curl and represent Canada. The top-finishing Swiss team will come to Canada for an all-expense paid trip and receive a similar experience to what the Canadians are preparing for.

The week includes meals, sightseeing in St. Gallen and Lucerne, visiting cities, a school and a cheese factory, and the Swiss mountains, all hosted by the Swiss Curling Association. St. Gallen includes the Abbey of St. Gall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and houses one of the oldest libraries in the world.

The French immersion student will try to use her skills to converse with people while in Switzerland.

Although Switzerland boasts four national languages - French, Italian, German and Romansh - German is the language spoken in St. Gallen.

The organizers of the Canadian event will be the two chaperones going with the rink to Switzerland. Byers said although her parents have discussed the possibility of going, it isn't likely due to time constraints. The players were interested in having a trip on their own and their coach Mike Harris is considering it. Harris is the team's assistant and won a silver medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Coming into the Youth Championships, the team's notable finishes include winning the Coldwater Rocktoberfest U18 Women's Spiel and finishing as a semi-finalist in the Stu Sells U18 Tankard held in Barrie in December. They have competed in six competitions, about one a month this season.

The next competition Byers and her team are looking forward to is the under-18 provincial qualifier from Feb. 7 to 9 in Gravenhurst. Two teams earn a berth from the qualifier to compete at the provincials in Oshawa early March Break, which is right before the Swiss trip. One team will advance to represent southern Ontario at the Canadian Under-18 Championships in Sudbury at the end of April.

Byers said being a second instead of a skip has helped her to work on her other curling skills.

"Skip doesn't sweep, first of all. I'm doing a lot more sweeping, which means I've been doing a lot more physical training off ice - working out, watching what I eat when I'm at the bonspiels because I'm not just standing there," she said. "In my opinion that's the main difference is lifestyle. I feel a lot stronger sweeping so I like that, but I don't need to worry about calling the game and strategy necessarily. I just look at the shot and say, 'yep, I agree with that.'"

Her experience as skip helps, she adds, because while sweeping she knows what the skip wants and understands the strategy behind it.

There's less pressure because she is not tasked with throwing the last rock to win a game.

Her team has alternated practices in Oshawa, Coldwater and in Haliburton depending on player schedules, and are often held before competitions. Most of the time the team has spent together has been competing on the weekends.

Despite the lack of practices, the team's success is due to the friendship shared by the players.

"We've just got along really well from the first day we've met. A lot of the girls' teams right now are actually ... they don't seem that happy with who they are playing with. There is a lot of drama. It's definitely our friendship, No. 1," she said.

Last year, Byers was first introduced to Harris, the team's skip, of Stouffville at a curling camp in Waterloo. Byers' competitive team, which included her sister Savannah, Lena Haase and Paige Ballantyne, competed against Harris. Cryderman of Oshawa is the lead and the team's vice is Middaugh, who is daughter of well-known curlers Sherry and Wayne. They were without teams, as their teams aged out of their divisions.

The two skips came together to form a team, looking for a change.

Byers said a new position could offer a challenge. She hoped a new team would allow her to develop and grow as a curler.

The sport has brought more than just on-ice achievement to Byers, who said its made her the person she is now.

"I was a really shy person ... it's helped me become the person I am today," she said. "I'm more confident, athletic and socially smarter. When you go to a different city it's different than living in the country all the time ... I think it will help me when I go to post-secondary next year. Just knowing the ability to make friends and go somewhere on your own and have pressure," she said.

Competing has allowed her to travel, seeing the province and meeting people she would have never met if not for curling.

Having her teammates with connections to long-established curling elite such as the Middaughs and Harris was part of Byers decision to find and form a new team.

"To go out and find my team on my own and just happen to be a pretty strong team it meant a lot to me and to have those people support me and play with is really cool. We were having team practices and Wayne Middaugh was coaching us. He's the coach of Team Hassleberg from Sweden, who [won gold at the Olympics in 2018]," she said.

The Swedish team is currently the No. 1 women's team on the tour.

The foundation for Byers's curling career started in Grade 5 with the Haliburton Curling Club's youth programming. She attributes her start to volunteer coaches Hugh Nichol and Bob MacNaull, who pushed her to take curling seriously.

"They noticed I had the potential to go far so they came to my parents: Stick with it. She'll go places," she said.

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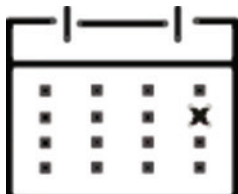
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31

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AVERAGE SALE PRICE

382

SOLD IN 2019



+8.8%



LOCATION

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Kennis/Redstone Lake



PHONE

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705.286.2138
705.489.9968
705.754.1932



EMAIL

info@century21granite.com
minden@century21granite.com
gauthier@interhop.net
kennisoffice@gmail.com



The 61st Men's Skyline Bonspiel

Above, representatives of the Lakefield Curling Club brought some extra flair to their game with their snazzy pants at the 61st annual Men's Skyline Bonspiel held Jan. 17 to 19 at the Haliburton Curling Club. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Above right, a team from Niagara Falls skipped by Jeff Glover with lead Randy Downey, Kevin Coons, left, and Todd Denney, right, were runners up in the C Event.

The Men's Skyline Bonspiel hosted 24 teams last weekend at the Haliburton Curling Club for the 61st anniversary of the event. Twenty-two of the teams travelled to the event from out of town, with some curlers coming from Niagara Falls and Sudbury. Carl Dixon played a Saturday night concert during the weekend bonspiel.



Annual equalization, infrastructure funding announced

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Last week, the provincial government announced annual funding allocations for municipalities under both its Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund and Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund programs.

Under the OMPF, which is the province's main grant funding program for municipalities, traditionally essentially equalization payments for Ontario's less prosperous and rural communities, overall funding levels for the municipalities of Haliburton County will remain close to what they were for 2019. The Township of Algonquin Highlands will receive \$1,264,000, \$20,000 less than the \$1,284,000 it received last year. The Township of Minden Hills will see an increase in its OMPF funding, receiving approximately \$1.8 million, up from approximately \$1.7 million last year. The municipalities of Dysart et al and Highlands East will each receive the exact same funding amount as 2019, at \$1.7 million and \$1.9 million respectively, and the upper tier of the County of Haliburton will see its funding drop from \$284,200 last year to \$241,600.

The funding is based on a number of criteria, including the number of households per municipality, how rural the municipalities are, how small they are, and what their fiscal circumstances are. It is used to offset general operating expenses.

Finance Minister Rod Phillips made the funding announcement during the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in Toronto on Monday.

"Municipalities told us how vital the OMPF is to their communities and they need information sooner to plan their budgets," Phillips said in a release. "That's why we announced allocations for 2020 earlier than ever before, and why we're committing today to maintain the funding envelope for next year."

Through the OCIF, which provides money for infrastructure projects, the county and its municipalities will collectively receive nearly \$650,000. The Township of Algonquin Highlands will receive \$50,000 which will be allocated for roads rehabilitation, and the Township of Minden Hills will receive just more than \$102,000, which will be allocated to its roads department. The municipalities of Dysart et al and Highlands East will receive approximately \$160,000 and \$50,000 respectively, also for roads, and the upper tier of the County of Haliburton will receive nearly \$285,000. Collectively, municipalities throughout Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock are getting an infrastructure funding infusion of nearly \$3.2 million.

"We are continuing to support our local municipal partners in creating jobs and stimulating economic growth, keeping our community thriving," HKLB MPP Laurie Scott, who is also Ontario's infrastructure minister, said in a release. "This funding delivers more money to address local infrastructure priorities."

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Community invited to Youth Hub opening

The Haliburton County Youth Hub is holding its official opening ceremony.

The youth hub is one of the Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario initiatives, which brings together services for young people in one space, such as mental and addictions support, primary care (sexual health), vocational, housing and other

support services.

The youth hub is a project that was guided by Haliburton County's young people.

"Co-creating with the youth in our community has been and will continue to be a pivotal component to the success of the Haliburton County Youth Hub,"

Marg Cox, executive director of Point in Time, said in a press release. "Youth have been involved in writing the proposal, governance, choosing the space, the wall colors, outreaching to the community and their peers, and co-designing service pathways and programming options to ensure that this is truly a place that they have ownership of; that is relevant, welcoming and meeting their needs. Fostering a sense of belonging and community is especially important in a region as rural as ours. It has definitely taken more than a village to make this a reality."

The Haliburton County Youth Hub was

possible through funding from Ontario's Ministry of Health, the CAMH Foundation, Haliburton County Development Corporation, Employment and Social Development Canada, the Government of Canada and private donations.

"In the midst of health transformation across the province, the Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario is a shining example of what is possible when a community and committed service providers join together to create truly responsive service delivery models," Carolyn Plummer, CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, says. "The learnings and partnerships from this project are informing our ongoing work with Haliburton Highland Ontario Health Team – right place, right provider, right time – and engagement with those people using the services is the right approach for all that we do as service providers."

The community is invited to celebrate the official grand opening. Due to capacity limitations at the hub, official proceedings will be held at the Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain Street at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6, with tours of the hub available before and after. Community members planning to attend are asked to RSVP to dawnm@pointintime.ca 705-457-5345 x338.

— Marg Cox

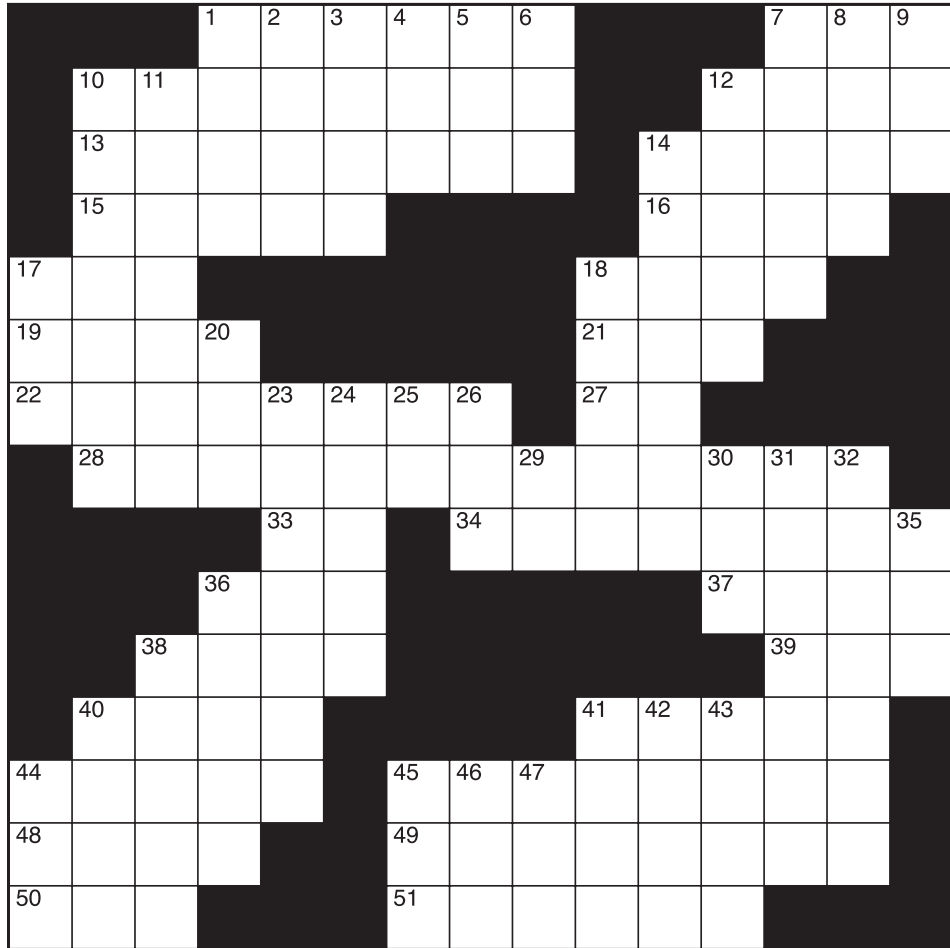
—Staff

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Stain one's hands
 - 7. Subdivision
 - 10. A passage to be performed slow
 - 12. Invests in little enterprises
 - 13. Medians
 - 14. Member of the giraffe family
 - 15. Makes official
 - 16. Choose in an election
 - 17. Hill or rocky peak
 - 18. Member of an ancient Iranian people
 - 19. Crest of a hill
 - 21. Small, faint constellation
 - 22. Cultivated from crops that yield oil
 - 27. The ancient Egyptian sun god
 - 28. Hollywood tough guy
 - 33. Chinese drums
 - 34. Merits
 - 36. Indicates center
 - 37. Increases motor speed
 - 38. Mentally fit
 - 39. BBQ favorite
 - 40. Wings
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Mental object
 - 2. Blackbird
 - 3. Undergarments
 - 4. Old cloth
 - 5. One from Utah
 - 6. Greek goddess of the dawn
 - 7. Become less intense
 - 8. Developed to readiness
 - 9. Defunct phone company
 - 10. About Freemason
 - 11. Taking everything into account
 - 12. Famed Czech engineer
 - 14. Impress into silence
 - 41. Female parents
 - 44. Marks left from wounds
 - 45. Soften by soaking in liquid
 - 48. They resist authority (slang)
 - 49. Formats
 - 50. Many subconsciousnesses
 - 51. Vogues
- 17. Boxing term
 - 18. Marketplaces
 - 20. Pounds per square inch
 - 23. Locomotives
 - 24. Short musical composition
 - 25. Football position (abbr.)
 - 26. Heavyhearted
 - 29. Denotes particular region
 - 30. Famed NHLer
 - 31. Ingested too much
 - 32. Formulates
 - 35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 36. Broad, shallow craters
 - 38. Thick cuts
 - 40. Breezed through
 - 41. Breakfast is one
 - 42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
 - 43. Periodicals (slang)
 - 44. Indian title of respect
 - 45. More (Spanish)
 - 46. Creation
 - 47. A loud utterance

Answers on page 18

“Co-creating with the youth in our community has been and will continue to be a pivotal component to the success of the Haliburton County Youth Hub.”



Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartet.al.ca
Website: www.dysartet.al.ca

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 12th, 2020
- TIME:** 11:00 am.
- LOCATION:** Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

- D13-MV-2019-026 – Hops Drive Developments Inc.

- The following variances are requested to permit the construction of a restaurant, convenience store and retail store on a lot in the CH zone:
 - a) A variance to the provisions of Section 3.30(c) to permit a convenience store and restaurant in the CH zone to have a minimum street setback from Hops Drive of 6.56 metres (21.52 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 13.5 metres (44.29 feet);
 - b) A variance to the provisions of Section 3.14 to permit the retail and commercial development on the subject lands to have a minimum of 2 loading spaces as opposed to the minimum requirement of 4
- Location: Part Lot 12, Concessions 8 and 9, Part 1, Plan 19R1658, in the geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (10 Hops Drive).

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing in person to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept written submissions. **A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, is available from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

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**UPCOMING
Community
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**Want to get your event in Community
Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com**

Minden & District Horticultural Society
When: Saturday, Feb. 1. Lunch at noon. 11:30 a.m. Social
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd, Minden
Guest Speaker: Jon Faulkner - Seed Starting and Succession Planting. Please bring your own plate, cutlery, cup and serving spoon
Mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca, minden@gardenontario.org

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd & No Friends
When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Legion
Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m., Meat Draw at 1 p.m.

Minden Pride Bowling
When: Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 10 p.m.
Where: Fast Lane Bowling, 12281 Hwy 35, Minden
Join us for a night of bowling. Only \$5.
Contact: 705-286-3900 or fastlanebowling@outlook.com

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association monthly meeting
When: Monday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.
Where: HCSA Clubhouse, 171 Mallard Road in Haliburton's Industrial Park.
It's a busy time for the HCSA with a number of projects on and off trail projects on the go. For further info email info@hcsa.ca or call 705-457-4263. Everyone is Welcome

100 Women Who Care Winter Meeting
When: Tuesday, Feb. 4
Where: The Dominion Hotel, Dining Room, Minden
Time: Social and Registration 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
We are 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County. We meet three times a year for one hour to raise money for local charities. Since we began we have raised over \$50,000. Why not come and see how we do it - it's awesome and it's fun!

Kinmount and District Educational Bursary, Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auction
When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Doors Open at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m.
Where: Galway Hall
To reserve tickets, phone 705 488-3053
Tickets: \$20 each

Country Music Jamboree
When: Feb. 9 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., open mic
Where: Coboconk Legion
Hosted by the Country Hot Flashes with Scott Russell and Ron Lister. Food made available by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary at a reasonable cost. Admission: \$8.

Highlands Male Chorus: Winter Interlude
When: Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
General admission: adults - \$15, children under 16 - \$5, family - \$35. Tickets available at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and Pharmasave in Minden

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.



Feeling the Burns
Friends Cameron Ferguson, left, and Tegan Legge dance together at the annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. Presented by the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums band, the event included performances by the Pipes and Drums band, dancing performances by the Mansfield Highland Dancers, scotch tasting, dancing and featured Scottish dish haggis during dinner. It commemorates the life of Scottish poet Robert Burns, who was born on Jan. 25, 1759. Burns is best known for the New Year's song, Auld Lang Syne. /DARREN LUM Staff



Mansfield Highland Dancers Mya Backus, left, Lacey MacDonald, Billie MacDonald, Mila Irvine and Jeralyn Lynch perform with Andrew Mansfield playing the bagpipes at the annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton.



**Downtown Haliburton
Business Improvement Area**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

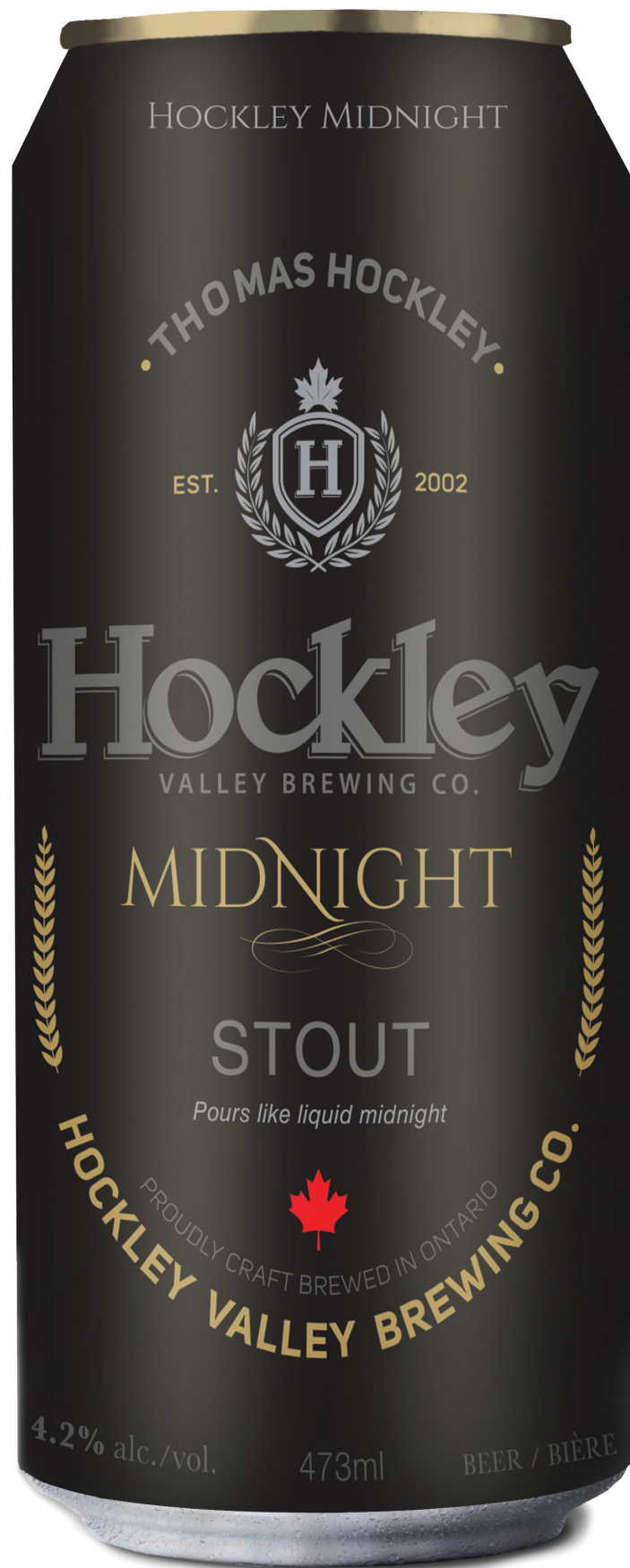
**Thursday, February 6, 2020
7:00 pm in the
Dysart et al Council Chambers**

"Everyone is welcome!"



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

			I	M	B	R	U	E					A	R	M		
	M	O	D	E	R	A	T	O					S	B	I	C	
	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	S				O	K	A	P	I	
	S	E	A	L	S							V	O	T	E		
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O	I	L	S	E	E	D	S			R	A						
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This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory**. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com



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David Dundas

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on January 9, 2020 in his 80th year. Beloved husband of Robin Wilson and the late Barbara Dundas (nee Loucks). Loving father of Elizabeth (Steve) and Suzanne (Shawn), Brent (Melanie) and Loran (Don). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Camille, Samuel, Ayiah, Asha, Christopher, Dillon, Devon, Owen and Nolan. Dear brother of James. Predeceased by his daughter Deborah and his brother Bruce. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. David was the General Manager of Civic Employee Credit Union in St. Catharines, Ontario for many years. He enjoyed fishing, woodworking, history and genealogy.

Visitation, Celebration Of Life & Reception

A Celebration of David's life will take place at the **HALIBURTON UNITED CHURCH** 10 George St. Haliburton, Ontario on Saturday afternoon, February 8, 2020 at 12 o'clock Noon. Reception to follow in the Church Hall. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton United Church or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Paul Huffman

(Resident of Wilberforce)

Peacefully at the residence surrounded by his family on Tuesday morning, January 21, 2020 in his 87th year. Beloved husband of the late Kathleen Isabel Huffman (nee Dakin). Loving father of Tom, Bob, Rick (Lynn) and Jacquie (Henry Verbruggen). Fondly remembered by his fourteen grandchildren, twenty two great grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Dear brother of Yvonne (Glen Workman). Predeceased by his son Michael. Paul was a Petty Officer 1st Class Royal Canadian Navy - retired. He worked for General Motors for over twenty two years as an Electrician. He enjoyed woodworking in his garage, coached Hockey & Baseball for over fifteen years and wrote the Sports Column for the Port Hope Evening Guide for many years.

Celebration Of Life & Reception

A Celebration of Life & Reception will be held on Saturday January 25, 2020 in Cobourg, Ontario. Please contact a family member for further information. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be appreciated by the family.

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Tuesday, January 18, 2011



Personal goal

Matt Duchene reflects on being chosen for all-star game

5



Big name

First female hall of famer to visit Haliburton

10



Left, Highlander of the Year winner Scotty Morrison gets a hug from Highlander of the Year nominee Don Popple at the fifth annual Business and Community Achievement Awards Gala held at the Pinestone Resort on Saturday, Jan. 15.

See more photos on page 3 and online at www.haliburtonecho.ca.

Darren Lum Echo staff

Scotty Morrison Highlander of the Year

Darren Lum
 Staff reporter

There was nothing but applause and laughter at the fifth annual Business and Community Achievement Awards Gala held at the Pinestone Resort in Haliburton on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Thanks to the wit, at times biting, but sprinkled with innocence of the event's master of ceremonies Mike Jaycock the audience was often simultaneously laughing and cringing.

Despite Jaycock's repertoire of verbal skills, he could not bring the audience to its feet like this year's Highlander of the Year winner.

When Scotty Morrison was announced as this year's recipient of the award, he received a standing ovation at the gala organized by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

He was thankful and spoke slowly. "When my dear wife was coming down with Alzheimer's and very good friends in Toronto said to me, 'Scotty, Joan is coming down with Alzheimer's and you're staying in Haliburton?' I said, 'I

wouldn't think of going anywhere, but Haliburton and I believe that from the bottom of my heart ... if I'm required to be an ambassador for Haliburton then I'll give it everything I've got," he said of his wife who died two years ago. "Thank you again very, very much. This is something I will treasure forever."

The next day, Morrison explained his affection for Haliburton County stems from how much the area meant to his wife, as she was cared for so well by the people he refers to as "angels on earth" at

see TRUE page 3

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